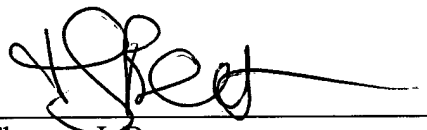


REMARKS

The present application was filed on February 26, 2004, as a continuation application of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/293,405, filed on November 13, 2002. The present Preliminary Amendment cancels claims 1 – 12 without prejudice or disclaimer, and adds new claims 13 – 37. No new matter is added.

It is believed that claims 13 - 37, consisting of independent claims 13 and 31, and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he or she is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action. Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Bean', is written over a horizontal line.

Thomas J. Bean
Reg. No. 44,528

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304

PHONE: (212) 940-8800/FAX: (212) 940-8776
Docket No.: ENRIGHT 21.016 (101353-00054)
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